

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 13, 2009 which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 remain in this application, where claims 2 and 4 has been canceled without prejudice, and claims 9-10 have been added. Claims 1 and 5-10 are independent.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to advance prosecution, claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended for better clarity. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claims 1-6 has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 4-6 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 4 which has been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claims 5-6 have been rewritten in independent form. Further, claims 7-8 have been amended to include features similar to that of allowable claim 4. In addition, new claim 9-10 has been added that include features similar to that of the allowable claims 5-6.


Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 5-10 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully requested that claim 3 also be allowed at least based on its dependence from independent claim 1 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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